



## *Quality of drinking water in relation to the presence of lead*

### *Action plan*

#### Background

In order to comply with the provisions of Section 36.2 of the Regulation respecting the quality of drinking water (RLRQ c Q-2, r.40), the person responsible for the City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux's drinking water distribution system has established this action plan concerning the quality of drinking water with respect to the presence of lead.

The establishment of this action plan follows a result exceeding the lead standard in the drinking water distributed by the City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux, on August 10, 2022, in a Dollard-des-Ormeaux residence.

The City requires to point out that:

- this result exceeding the standard for lead in distributed drinking water was obtained as part of the sampling carried out annually on its territory;
- it concerns only one residence; and
- the previous result exceeding the aforementioned lead in drinking water standard dates back to 2016.

#### **1. Actions taken in the event of an exceedance**

As soon as the City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux was informed that the lead level in the drinking water distributed to a residence on its territory had been exceeded, additional samples were taken from the residence to determine the source of the lead.

This additional sampling, carried out in accordance with applicable standards, led to the conclusion that the source of the lead was the internal plumbing fittings or welding, confirming that the problem did not stem from a lead service line.

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On October 25, 2022, a detailed correspondence was sent to the owner concerned (see Annexe 1). This correspondence detailed:

- the results of the various sampling tests;
- recommended measures to reduce the risk of lead exposure;
- the recommendations of the *Direction régionale de la santé publique* (DRSP) of the *CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal* regarding the presence of lead in drinking water; and
- website links of the DRSP and the *Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte aux changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs* concerning lead in the drinking water.

## 2. Actions taken for the entire territory of the City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux

Throughout its territory, the City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux conducts an annual **campaign to test drinking water for lead**, by taking water samples from 25 residential properties built before 1970. Property owners are invited to submit their registration in the spring of each year, using the usual communications tools: municipal Journal distributed to every door, website, newsletters, etc. The properties are selected by the City to ensure that they are representative of its entire territory and of the two drinking water distribution systems for which it is responsible. The City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux will maintain this screening campaign, in collaboration with the Montreal agglomeration.

With regard to **water service lines**, which are generally the source of lead in municipal drinking water, the City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux has prohibited the use of lead since June 1962. As a result of the City's inspections of service lines to residences built before 1962 on its territory, carried out as part of targeted inspections and inspections carried out during rehabilitation work on the water supply system, no lead service lines were detected.

Considering that the result of exceeding the lead standard in August 2022 constitutes a unique case, that it is not related to the presence of a lead service line, that it is the first since 2016 and that no service line has been identified on its territory. The City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux does not plan to modify the chemical balance of the distributed water or to implement a strategy for the complete replacement of lead service lines.

## Publication

In accordance with the provisions of Section 36.2 of the Regulation respecting the quality of drinking water (RLRQ c Q-2, r.40), a copy of this action plan:

- has been published on the City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux website ;
- has been made available to the **Ministre de l'Environnement, de la Lutte aux changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs**; and
- is available to any user of the City of Dollard-des-Ormeaux's drinking water distribution system who requests it.

Given at Dollard-des-Ormeaux, this July 6, 2023

*(Original signed)*

Calogero Zambito, Eng.



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**ANNEXE 1**



October 25, 2022

**Subject: Test results for lead and copper in your drinking water**

Sir,

Following the sampling carried out at your home during the first visit on August 10, 2022 as part of the campaign on lead and copper in drinking water, here are the results of the analyzes as well as their significance.

The results obtained from your tap water, after 5 minutes of flow followed by 30 minutes of stagnation are as follows:

Parameter	Your result	Standard
Copper	0,0593 mg/L (59,30 µg/L)	1 mg/L (1 000 µg/L)
Lead	0,02066 mg/L (20,66 µg/L)	0,005 mg/L (5 µg/L)

The result for copper conforms to the standard of 1 mg/L (1 000 µg/L), but the result for lead exceeds the standard of 0,005 mg/L (5 µg/L) from the *Règlement sur la qualité de l'eau potable*.

Therefore, additional samples were taken at your home on September 23, 2022<sup>1</sup> to better assess the source of the lead concentration. The average amount of lead in the first four litres is also more representative of the water that can be consumed.

<sup>1</sup> Samples were also taken on September 9, 2022, but an analytical interference did not allow all the results to be obtained.

The results obtained from your tap water, after 5 minutes of flow followed by 30 minutes of stagnation are as follows:

Parameter	Your results of September 23, 2022	Standard
Lead (1 <sup>st</sup> Litre)	0,02091 mg/L (20,91 µg/L)	0,005 mg/L (5 µg/L)
Lead (2 <sup>nd</sup> Litre)	0,00284 mg/L (2,84 µg/L)	
Lead (3 <sup>rd</sup> Litre)	0,00199 mg/L (1,99 µg/L)	
Lead (4 <sup>th</sup> Litre)	0,00151 mg/L (1,51 µg/L)	
Lead (average of the 4 litres)	0,00681 mg/L (6,81 µg/L)	

The result for lead for the 1<sup>st</sup> litre of water after a 5 minute flow and a 30 minute stagnation time exceeds the 0.005 mg/L (5 µg/L) standard of the Regulation. In addition, the average of the first four litres also exceeds the recommended concentration of 0.005 mg/L (5 µg/L). These results indicate the presence of a lead source. Considering that there is a significant drop in lead concentration for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> litre of water sample, the source of lead is most probably the faucet or the internal plumbing welds.

To reduce the risk of exposure to lead, it is recommended:

- to let the tap water run for a few minutes after it has become cold (cool in the summer) especially if it has been in the service pipes for a long time (in the morning or after returning from work);
- to use cold water for cooking;
- to regularly remove and clean the aerator (small filter) placed in the spout of the tap.

Please note that it is not necessary to boil your water; lead does not evaporate and is not destroyed by boiling.

The *Direction régionale de santé publique du CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (DRSP)* has assessed the health risk associated with the presence of lead in drinking water:

- The problem of lead in water on the territory of Montreal is mainly associated with the presence of lead service pipes. The DRSP considers that the health risk is low. Nevertheless, this risk could affect a large number of individuals, and scientific knowledge calls for caution. In this sense, the objective of public health authorities is to reduce as much as possible the level of exposure to lead for everyone, particularly for young children and pregnant women.
- In order to reduce the risk to a minimum, temporary protective measures exist to reduce exposure to lead in tap water, such as the use of filtration devices (filtering pitcher, filter attached to the tap or installed under the sink) certified for lead reduction in accordance with NSF/ANSI Standard No. 53. It is very important to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the installation and maintenance of these filters.

- Such measures would be particularly relevant for babies fed with commercial preparations of milk reconstituted with water (condensed milk, powdered milk), children under 6 and pregnant women who live in a residence with a lead service entrance.

For more information on lead in drinking water:

#### Health

- Info-santé, 8-1-1
- *CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal* Regional Public Health Department:  
[www.santemontreal.qc.ca/leadinwater](http://www.santemontreal.qc.ca/leadinwater)

#### Government standards

- *Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs:*  
<https://www.environnement.gouv.qc.ca/eau/potable/plomb/index.htm>

Should you require further information concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 514-684-1012, extension 356.

Regards,

*(Original signed)*

Calogero Zambito, Eng.  
Division Head – Engineering

CZ/jl